

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 remain pending in the present application. No claims have been amended.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Examiner has rejected Claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Schickerling (U.S. Patent No. 6,112,420). The Examiner alleges that Schickerling anticipates Applicants' invention.

Claim 20, among other elements, defines a cam member extending between the side walls. The cam member is fixed to the sidewalls and positioned from the base to form a channel to receive the saw blade.

The Schickerling reference relied on by the Examiner fails to anticipate Applicants' invention. Schickerling illustrates a plate 58 which the Examiner alleges is a cam. The plate 58 floats in the clamping mechanism. The plate 58 is positioned onto the base when a blade is not in the clamp. Thus, Schickerling fails to disclose a fixed cam member which is positioned with respect to the base to form a channel. Accordingly, Schickerling fails to anticipate Applicants' invention. Likewise, since Schickerling does not illustrate a fixed cam position with respect to the base to form a channel, it would not render Applicants' invention obvious to those skilled in the art.

Thus, Applicants believe Claim 20 to be patentably distinguishable over the Schickerling reference.

CLAIM REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2, 3, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) alleging them to be unpatentable over Lai (U.S. Patent No. 5,479,709) in view of Schickerling. The Examiner alleges that this combination would render Applicants' invention obvious to those skilled in the art.

Independent Claims 1 and 11 include, among other elements, a monolithic carrier which includes a portion which connects with a motor and an additional portion which connects with the plate.

The Examiner's combination fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. As pointed out by the Examiner, the Lai reference illustrates a carrier 6 or plunger which includes an element 10 bolted onto the plunger. The Examiner alleges that Schickerling provides a monolithic feature. The Examiner has mischaracterized the Schickerling reference. In column 2, lines 28-52, Schickerling indicates that the illustrated blade holder assembly is attached to reciprocating plunger. The blade holder assembly 10 includes a housing 28 which is adapted to be secured to the plunger via the bore 30 and a threaded bore in the plunger via a fastener. Thus, Schickerling illustrates a blade holder assembly which is secured to a plunger like that shown in Lai. Accordingly, Schickerling neither discloses nor suggests any type of monolithic carrier as claimed by Applicants. Thus, the Examiner's combination fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. Thus, Applicants believe independent Claims 1 and 11, as well as their dependent Claims 2-10 and 12-19, to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

The Examiner has rejected dependent Claims 9, 10, 18, and 19 as being unpatentable over Lai and Schickerling further in view of Armstrong (U.S. Patent No. 5,535,520).

The Armstrong reference fails to overcome the deficiencies of the Lai and Schickerling combination. Accordingly, the combination with Armstrong does not overcome these defects. Thus, Claims 9, 10, 18 and 19 are patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

Independent Claim 21 defines, among other elements, a carrier which is connected to the drive mechanism which includes a releasably attached base portion. The base portion receives a saw blade.

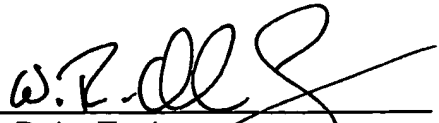
As mentioned above, the Lai and Schickerling references fail to disclose or suggest the carrier with a monolithic base portion. Accordingly, the Examiner's combination fails to disclose or suggest Applicants' invention. Thus, Applicants believe Claims 21, as well as dependent Claims 22 and 23, to be patentably distinct over the art cited by the Examiner.

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants submits that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to pass the case to issue at his earliest possible convenience.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding the present application, he should not hesitate to contact the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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